

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 28, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the forgoing amendments are made in response thereto. Applicants respectfully submit that no prohibited new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments. Entry of these amendments and reconsideration of the claimed subject matter is respectfully requested.

The Office Action noted that the application is now in condition for allowance, except for the presence of claims 1-6 and 15, which are drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants have, therefore, canceled these non-elected claims.

Claims 8, 12, 13 and 16-26 have been allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's allowance of these claims. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the timely mailing of a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and early notice of allowance to that effect. A favorable action is awaited.

Except for fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,
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